

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicant to the Examiner's comments and rejection of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicant notes the Examiner's objections to Figure 5 of the drawings, and herewith encloses an Annotated and Replacement Sheet, indicating that the missing reference numerals "16" and "17" have been added, as set forth on page 13 of the specification. This should clearly obviate the Examiner's objections to the drawings and fully meet the requirements in that regard.

With regard to the rejection of the claims, applicant notes that the primary reference of record, which has been applied to the claims, is applicant's own earlier U.S. Patent No. 6,677,020 B2.

Concerning the rejection of the claims, applicant notes that Claims 9-12, 15 and 17-19 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Dron, U.S. Patent No. 6,677,020 in view of F. E. Clark, et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,178,779, as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and as extensively discussed in the Office Action.

Furthermore, applicant notes the rejection of Claims 14 and 16, as previously applied to Claims 9-12, further in view of Mueller, U.S. Patent No. 4,579,192, as discussed in the Office Action.

Accordingly, upon careful consideration of the art and in order to clearly and unambiguously provide patentable subject matter in the claims, applicant has amended Claim 9, the only independent claim, by clearly stating that the third elastically deformable section piece, which is a sealed tubular member, has a hardness of about 30 to 35 Shore A, as set forth in the specification, and wherein the interior of the third section piece is provided with a non-compressible fluid in the form of a liquid and imparted a variably controllable pressure, so as to cause the third section piece to come into a conforming pressure-transmitting contact with an interior wall surface of the second section piece, so as to thereby improve the sealing and soundproofing properties of the seal during the vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed.

The use of a variable controllable pressure to impart such a pressure to a non-compressible liquid, which fills the interior of the third section piece forming a tubular sealed member enables the third sealed tubular member or piece when a localized over pressure is encountered therewithin to contact the inner wall of the outer seal in a conforming pressure-transmitting manner, inasmuch as this pressure is instantaneously transmitted to the whole mass of the liquid, which is incompressible, with a corresponding appropriate deformation of the seal, so as to conform to the inside shape of the outer seal. This provides an extremely uniformly distributed pressure, particularly at higher rates of speed of the vehicle, and which is further enhanced by the inner seal forming the third or sealed tubular member being made of a highly flexible resilient material having a very low hardness of between 30 and 35 Shore A, inasmuch as it only conformingly contacts the interior surface of the wall of the outer tubular seal encompassing the pressurized inner seal.

These particular novel aspects have now been incorporated into Claim 9, with the remaining claims being similarly limited by being dependent therefrom.

Reverting to the art, as applied by the Examiner, applicant notes that the Dron seal structure provides for internal and external seals which have holes formed therein and which do not contain any kind of liquid or pressurized medium.

With regard to the remaining prior art, which is of a secondary nature, F. E. Clark, et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,178,779, only discloses an inner seal which can be pressurized by means of air, and which would not provide for the particular advantages of using an incompressible liquid. This is also applicable to Mueller, U.S. Patent No. 4,579,192, which only provides a single seal surface wherein one seal is adapted to be pressurized by means of compressed air.

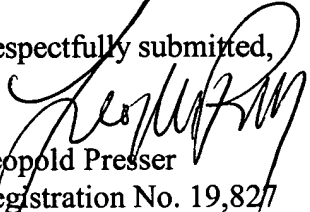
In essence, none of the references of record provide for the type of material properties of the inner seal and the use of a non-compressible liquid, which is adapted to be pressurized so as to form the uniform sealing effect with regard to the interior surface of an outer seal in an advantageous and distributed manner.

Accordingly, the amended claims, as being present herewith, are deemed to clearly and patentably distinguish over the art, irrespective as to whether the latter is considered singly or in combination.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the claims clearly distinguish over the art, and the early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicant's attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: One (1) Annotated Sheet of Figure 5
One (1) Replacement Sheet of Figure 5

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figure 5, as shown on the attached Annotated and Replacement Sheet.



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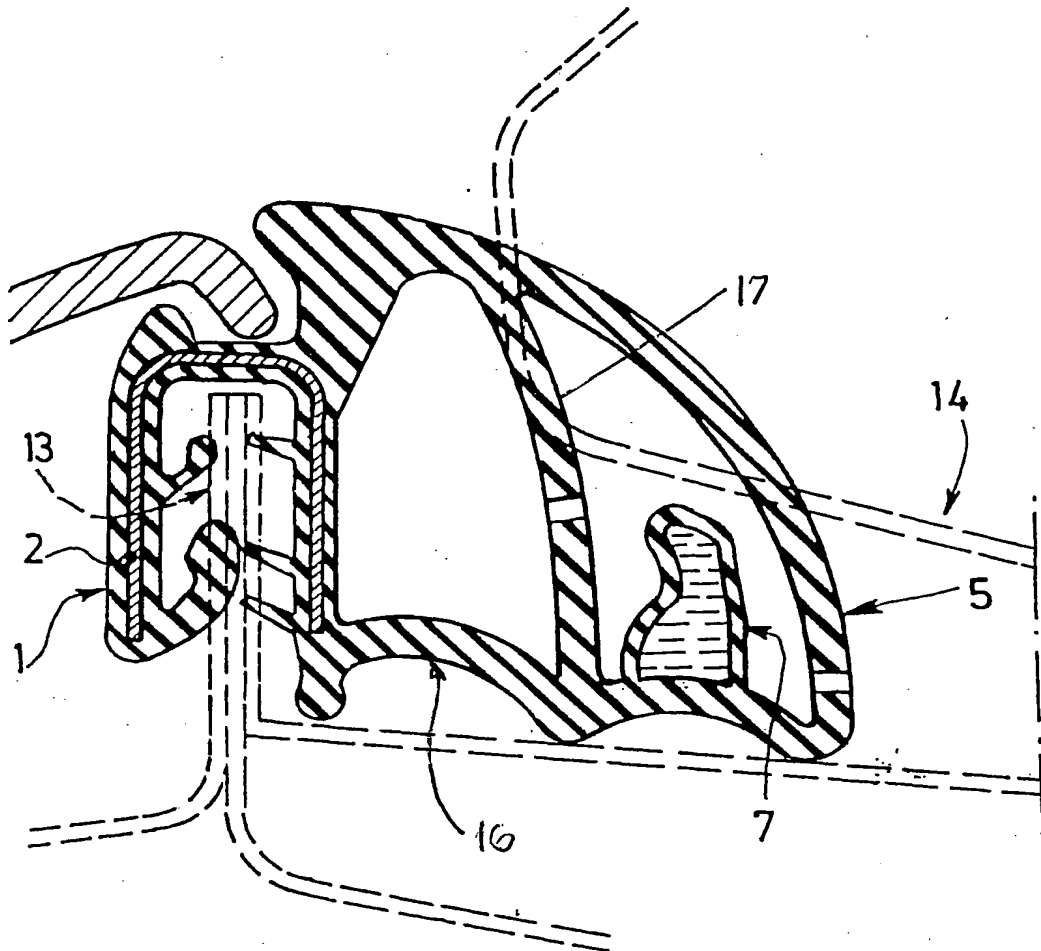


FIG.5